

FLA

To FLAUNT. *v. n.*

1. To make a fluttering show in apparel.

With ivy canopy'd, and interwove

With flaunting honeyfuckle.

These courtiers of applause deny themselves things conven-

ient to flaunt it out, being frequently enough fain to immo-

late their own desires to their vanity.

Here, attir'd beyond our purse, we go,

For useless ornament and flaunting show:

We take on trust, in purple robes to shine,

And poor, are yet ambitious to be fine.

You sit, you loiter about alcoves, or flaunt about the

streets in your new-gilt chariot, never minding me nor your

numerous family.

2. To be hung with something loose and flying. This seems

not to be proper.

Fortune in men has some small difference made;

One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade.

FLAUNT. *n. f.* Any thing loose and airy.

Wildly bound up, what would he say! or how

Should I in these my borrow'd flaunts behold

The sternness of his presence!

FLA'VOUR. *n. f.*

1. Power of pleasing the taste.

They have a certain flavour, at their first appearance, from

several accidental circumstances, which they may lose, if not

taken early.

2. Sweetness to the smell; odour; fragrance.

Myrtle, orange, and the blushing rose,

With bending heaps, to nigh their bloom disclose,

Each seems to smell the flavour which the other blows.

FLA'VOUROUS. *adj.* [from flavour.]

1. Delightful to the palate.

Sweet grapes degenerate there, and fruits decline'd

From their first flav'rous taste, renounce their kind.

2. Fragrant; odorous.

FLAW. *n. f.* [flaw, to break; ploh, Saxon, a fragment;

flaw, Dutch, broken in mind.]

1. A crack or breach in any thing.

This heart shall break into a thousand flaws,

Or ere I weep.

Wool, new-thorn, being laid casually upon a vessel of ver-

juice, after some time had drunk up a great part of the ver-

juice, though the vessel were whole, without any flaw, and

had not the bungle open.

We found it exceeding difficult to keep out the air from

getting in at any imperceptible hole or flaw.

A flaw is in thy ill-bak'd vessel found;

'Tis hollow, and returns a jarring sound.

As if great Atlas, from his height,

Should sink beneath his heavenly weight;

And with a mighty flaw the flaming wall, as once it shall,

Should gape immense, and, rushing down, o'erwhelm this

nether ball.

Whether the nymph shall break Diana's law,

Or some frail China-jar receive a flaw.

He that would keep his house in repair, must attend every

little breach or flaw, and supply it immediately, else time

alone will bring all to ruin.

2. A fault; defect.

Yet certain though it be, it hath flaws; for that the scri-

veners and brokers do value unfound men to serve their own

turn.

Traditions were a proof alone,

Could we be certain such they were, so known:

But since some flaws in long descents may be,

They make not truth, but probability.

And laid her dowry out in law,

To null her jointure with a flaw.

Their judgment has found a flaw in what the generality

of mankind admires.

So many flaws had this vow in its first conception.

3. A sudden gust; a violent blast. [from *fla*, Latin.]

Being incens'd, he's flint;

As humorous as Winter, and as sudden

As flaws congealed in the spring of day.

Oh, that that earth, which kept the world in awe,

Should patch a wall, 't' expel the Winter's flaw.

As a huge fish, laid

Near to the cold weed-gathering shore, is with a north flaw

Shoots back; so, sent against the ground,

Was foil'd Eurialus.

Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice,

And snow, and hail, and stormy gust, and flaw,

Boreas, and Cæcias, and Argætes loud,

And Thracias rend the woods, and seas upturn.

I heard the rack,

As earth and sky would mingle; but myself

Was distant; and these flaws, though mortals fear them,

As dangerous to the pillar'd frame of heav'n,

Or to the earth's dark basis underneath,

Are to the main inconsiderable.

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4. A tumult; a tempestuous uproar.

And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage,

Until the golden circuit on my head

Do calm the fury of this madbrain'd flaw.

The fort's revolted to the emperor,

The gates are open'd, the portcullis drawn,

And deluges of armies from the town

Came pouring in: I heard the mighty flaw;

When first it broke, the crowding enligns saw

Which choak'd the passage.

5. A sudden commotion of mind.

Oh these flaws and starts;

Impostors to true fear, would become

A woman's story at a Winter's fire.

To FLAW. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To break; to crack; to damage with fissure.

But his flaw'd heart,

Alack, too weak the conflict to support;

'Twixt two extremes of passion, joy and grief,

Burst smilingly.

The cup was flawed with such a multitude of little cracks,

that it looks like a white, not like a crystalline cup.

The brazen cauldrons with the frosts are flaw'd,

The garment stiff with ice, at hearths is thaw'd.

2. To break; to violate. Out of use.

France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd

Our merchants goods.

FLA'WLESS. *adj.* [from flaw.] Without cracks; without de-

fects.

A star of the first magnitude, which the more high, more

vast, and more flawless, shines only bright enough to make

itself conspicuous.

FLAWS. *n. f.* [plena, Saxon; flaw, French; flaws, Dutch.]

A fort of custard; a pie baked in a dish.

To FLAWTER. *v. a.* To scrape or pare a skin.FLAWY. *adj.* [from flaw.] Full of flaws.FLAX. *n. f.* [plex, plex, Saxon; vlas, Dutch.]

1. The fibrous plant of which the finest thread is made.

The leaves, for the most part, grow alternately on branches:

the cup of the flower consists of one leaf, is tubulous, and

divided into five parts at the top: the flower consists of five

leaves, which expand in form of a clove gillflower: the ova-

ry, which rises from the centre of the flowercup, becomes an

almost globular fruit, which is generally pointed, and com-

posed of many cells, in which are lodged many plain smooth

seeds, which are blunt at one end, and generally sharp at the

other. The species are six. The first sort is that which is

cultivated for use in divers parts of Europe, and is reckoned an

excellent commodity. It should be cultivated.

2. The fibres of flax cleaned and combed for the spinner.

I'll fetch some flax, and whites of eggs,

'T' apply to's bleeding face.

Then on the rock a scanty measure place

Of vital flax, and turn'd the wheel apace,

And turning sung.

FLAXCOMB. *n. f.* [flax and comb.] The instrument with

which the fibres of flax are cleaned from the brittle parts.

FLAXDRESSER. *n. f.* [flax and dress.] He that prepares flax

for the spinner.

FLAXEN. *adj.* [from flax.]

1. Made of flax.

The matron, at her nightly task,

With pensive labour draws the flaxen thread.

The best materials for making ligatures are the flaxen thread

that shoemakers use.

2. Fair, long and flowing, as if made of flax.

I bought a fine flaxen long wig, that cost me thirty guineas.

FLAXWEED. *n. f.* A plant.To FLAY. *v. a.* [ad flay, Icelandic; flay, Danish; vlas, Dut.]

1. To strip of the skin.

I must have suffered famine, been eaten with wild beasts, or

have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards, and been flayed

alive.

While the old levitical hierarchy continued, it was part of

the ministerial office to flay the sacrifices.

Then give command the sacrifice to haste;

Let the flay'd victims in the plains be cast;

And sacred vows, and mystick song, apply'd

To grisly Pluto and his gloomy bride.

2. To take off the skin or surface of any thing.

They flay their skin from off them, break their bones, and

chop them in pieces.

Neither should that odious custom be allowed of cutting

scraws, which is flaying off the green surface of the grouse,

to cover their cabins, or make up their ditches.

FLAY'ER. *n. f.* [from flay.] He that strips off the skin of any

thing.

FLEA. *n. f.* [plea, Saxon; vloye, Dutch; fleach, Scottish.] A

small red insect remarkable for its agility in leaping, which

sucks the blood of larger animals.

While wormwood hath fed, get a handful or twain;

To fave against March to make flea to refrain:

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Where chamber is sweep'd, and wormwood is strown,

No flea for his life date abide to be known.

Fleas breed principally of straw or mats, where there hath

been a little moisture.

A valiant flea, that dares eat his breakfast on the lip of a

lion.

To FLEA. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To clean from fleas.FLEABANE. *n. f.* [flea and ban.] A plant.

It hath undivided leaves, which, for the most part, are glu-

tinous, and have a strong scent: the cup of the flower is for

the most part scaly, and of a cylindrical form: the flower is

composed of many florets, which are succeeded by seeds with

a downy substance adhering to them.

FLEABITE. *n. f.* [flea and bite.]

1. Red marks caused by fleas.

The attendance of a cancer is commonly a breaking out all

over the body, like a fleabiting.

2. A small hurt or pain like that caused by the sting of a flea.

A gout, a cholic, a cutting off an arm or leg, or searing

the flesh, are but fleabites to the pains of the soul.

The same expence that breaks one man's back, is not a flea-

biting to another.

FLEABITING. *adj.* [flea and bite.]

1. Stung by fleas.

2. Mean; worthless.

Fleabitten synod, an assembly brew'd

Of clerks and elders ana, like the rude

Chaos of preb'ytry, where laymen guide,

With the tame woolpack clergy by their side.

FLEAK. *v. a.* [from fleas, Latin. See FLAKE.] A small

lock, thread, or twit.

The business of men depend upon these little long fleaks

or threads of hemp and flax.

FLEAM. *n. f.* [corrupted from *phlebotomus*, the instrument used

in phlebotomy.] An instrument used to bleed cattle, which

is placed on the vein, and then driven by a blow.

FLEAWORT. *n. f.* [flea and wort.] A plant.

This plant agrees with plantain and buckthorn-plantain in

every respect, excepting that this rises up with leafy stalks,

and divides into many branches; whereas both the others pro-

duce their flowers upon naked pedicels.

To FLECK. *v. a.* [fleck, German, a spot, Skimmer: perhaps it

is derived from fleck, or fleke, an old word for a grate, hurdle,

or any thing made of parts laid transverse, from the Icelandic

flek.] To spot; to streak; to stripe; to dapple; to varie-

gate.

Let it not see the dawning fleck the skies,

Nor the grey morning from the ocean rise.

Fleck'd in her face, and with disorder'd hair,

Her garments ruff'd, and her bosom bare.

Both fleck'd with white, the true Arcadian strain.

To FLECKER. *v. a.* [from fleck.] To spot; to mark with red

strokes or touches of different colours; to mark with red

whelks.

The grey-ey'd morn smiles on the frowning night,

Check'ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light;

And darkness fleck'd, like a drunkard, reels

From forth day's path, and Titan's burning wheels.

FLED. The pretense and participle not properly of fly, to use

the wings, but of flee, to run away.

The truth is fled far away, and leaving is hard at hand.

In vain for life he to the altar fled;

Ambition and revenge have certain speed.

FLEDGE. *adj.* [fledgers, to fly, Dutch.] Full-feathered; able

to fly; qualified to leave the nest.

We did find

The shells of fledge souls left behind.

His locks behind,

Illustrious on his shoulders, fledge with wings,

Lay waving round.

To FLEDGE. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To furnish with

wings; to supply with feathers.

The birds were not as yet fledged enough to shift for them-

selves.

The speedy growth of birds that are hatched in nests, and

fed by the old ones 'till they be fledged, and come almost to

full bigness in about a fortnight, seems to me an argument of

providence.

The fadals of celestial mould,

Fledg'd with ambrosial plumes, and rich with gold,

Surround her feet.

To FLEE. *v. n.* pret. fled. [This word is now almost univer-

sally written fly, though properly to fly, pleogan, is to move

with wings, and flee, plean, to run away. They are now con-

founded.] To run from danger; to have recourse to shelter.

Behold, this city is near to flee unto.

Were men so dull they could not see

That Lyce painted; should they flee

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Like simple birds into a net,

So grossly woven and ill set?

There are none of us fall into those circumstances of dan-

ger, want, or pain, that we can have hopes of relief but

from God alone; none in all the world to flee to, but him.

FLEECE. *n. f.* [fley, fley, Saxon; vlesse, Dutch.] As much

wool as is shorn from one sheep.

Giving account of the annual increase

Both of their lambs and of their woolly fleeces.

So many days my ewes have been with young,

So many months ere I shall shear the fleeces.

I am shepherd to another man,

And do not shear the fleeces that I graze.

Her sunny locks

Hang on her temples like a golden fleece.

Sailors have used every night to hang fleeces of wool on the

sides of their ships, towards the water; and they have cruised

fresh water out of them in the morning.

The sheep will prove much to the advantage of the woollen

manufacture, by the fineness of the fleeces.

To FLEECE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To clip the fleece off a sheep.

2. To strip; to pull; to plunder, as a sheep is robbed of his